IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel.,)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.) 05-CV-0329 GKF-PJC
TYSON FOODS, INC.,)
Defendants.)

TYSON FOODS, INC.'S, TYSON POULTRY, INC.'S, TYSON CHICKEN, INC.'S, AND COBB-VANTRESS, INC.'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Defendants Tyson Foods, Inc., Tyson Poultry, Inc., Tyson Chicken, Inc., and Cobb-Vantress, Inc. (collectively, "Tyson") provide the following *Response* in opposition to the State of Oklahoma's *Motion for Protective Order* ("*Motion*") regarding certain subpoenas issued by Tyson. *See* Doc. No. 1990.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Court should reject the State's Janus-faced arguments regarding the issuance of discovery seeking the production of documents beyond the April 16, 2009 discovery "cut-off" set by the Court. Although the State complains that Tyson issued subpoenas to non-parties seeking the production of documents beyond the discovery "cut-off," what the State fails to inform the Court – and what should be fatal to the State's *Motion* – is the fact that the State served discovery requests that required a response after the April 16, 2009 discovery cut-off. The State served discovery requests on multiple defendants in this case seeking the production of

documents and answers to interrogatories <u>after</u> the April 16, 2009 discovery "cut-off" and defendant entities have responded to the State's discovery after the discovery "cut-off." Therefore, the State should not be heard by this Court to complain of non-party document production beyond the discovery "cut-off" when the State has itself issued discovery that should fail under the arguments advanced by the State. To put it simply, the State cannot have it both ways. Discovery seeking a response after the discovery "cut-off" is either untimely or it is not. Tyson respectfully submits that unless and until the State rescinds its discovery to defendants – and agrees not to use any information provided in defendants' responses to such discovery – the State should not be heard to complain about the subpoenas issued by Tyson.

II. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES

The party seeking a protective order has the burden of showing good cause for its issuance. *See AG Equip. Co. v. AIG Life Ins. Co.*, 2008 WL 3992789, at *1 (N.D.Okla. Aug. 25, 2008). The decision whether to enter a protective order is within the discretion of the court. *See Wang v. Hsu*, 919 F.2d 130, 130 (10th Cir. 1990). As Tyson will demonstrate below, the State has wholly failed to demonstrate good cause for this Court to enter a protective order because the State itself has engaged in the type of discovery practice for which it now seeks "protection."

A. THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA SERVED DISCOVERY SEEKING THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND ANSWERS TO INTERROGATORIES BEYOND THE APRIL 16, 2009 DISCOVERY CUT-OFF.

On March 17, 2009, the State served discovery requests on defendants in this matter seeking the production of documents and answers to interrogatories <u>after</u> the April 16, 2009 discovery "cut-off." *See, e.g.,* the *State of Oklahoma's Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents of March 17, 2009* to Tyson Foods, Inc., Tyson Poultry, Inc., Tyson

Chicken, Inc., and Cobb-Vantress, Inc., Cargill, Inc., and Cargill Turkey Production, LLC (referred to collectively herein as the State's "March 17 Discovery"), attached hereto as **Exhibits A-F**. Pursuant to Rules 5(b)(2)(C), 5(b)(2)(E), 6(d), 33(b)(2), and 34(b)(2)(A), defendants' time to respond to the State's discovery requests extended to April 20 – *i.e.*, after the discovery cut-off set by this Court. Tyson responded to the State's March 17 Discovery early (on April 16, 2009) and, in accordance with the time provided by the Federal Rules, Cargill provided responses to the State's March 17 Discovery on April 20, 2009 – *i.e.*, after the discovery cut-off. Under the arguments advanced in the State's Motion, the State's March 17 Discovery is clearly "untimely."

Importantly, the State has already benefitted from obtaining certain defendants' responses to the State's *March 17 Discovery* both before and after the discovery cut-off, and the State filed its *Motion* after receiving Cargill's April 20, 2009 responses – apparently oblivious to the discrepancy between accepting the benefit of discovery responses after the discovery cut-off while challenging Tyson's subpoenas. Therefore, equity and fairness demand that unless and until the State rescinds its *March 17 Discovery* to the defendants – and agrees not to use any information provided in defendants' responses to such discovery – the State should not be heard to complain about the subpoenas issued by Tyson. Regardless of whether the Court intended the discovery "cut-off" to be the date upon which all discovery should have been completed, or the deadline for issuing any new discovery, it would be highly inequitable for the Court to allow the State to enjoy the benefits of discovery requiring responses after the discovery "cut-off," while denying Tyson the opportunity to do the same – especially when there is no principled distinction between the two discovery efforts.

B. RELEVANT LEGAL AUTHORITY DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE ISSUANCE OF TYSON'S SUBPOENAS.

Review of the relevant authority within the Northern District of Oklahoma yields two cases, each cited by the State: Rice v. United States, 164 F.R.D. 556 (N.D. Okla. 1995) and Oldenkamp v. United American Ins. Co., 2008 WL 5083696 (Nov. 26, 2008 N.D. Okla.). Although the State places great reliance upon *Oldenkamp*, review of the two cases demonstrates that *Rice* should be viewed as the more authoritative opinion because the *Oldenkamp* opinion does not contain any legal analysis or citations to legal authorities to support its finding that the subpoenas at issue in that case were untimely. See id. at *2. Therefore, it is quite possible that the district court was simply making a finding that was specific to the district court's interpretation of its own scheduling order. Id.; accord Smith v. Midland Brake, Inc., 162 F.R.D. 683, 686 (D. Kan. 1995) (defendant moved to quash a subpoena duces tecum issued by plaintiff as being in violation of the court's scheduling order, requiring the district court to interpret the specific language in its scheduling order to reject defendant's objection to the subpoenas). The limited precedential value of *Oldenkamp* is further demonstrated by the fact that a Westlaw query of "citing references" fails to identify any other court that has cited to the Oldenkamp opinion for any purpose.¹

In sharp contrast to the unexplained holding of *Oldenkamp*, *Rice* provides a thorough analysis of the policies and authority that govern inquiries of whether a subpoena is considered timely under an applicable scheduling order. In *Rice*, the defendant issued subpoenas *duces*

discovery in this matter.

The State also cites to *Marvin Lumber and Cedar Co. v. PPG Indus., Inc.*, 177 F.R.D. 443 (D. Minn. 1997) as support for the State's arguments. However, although the subpoenas at issue had a return date after the deadline for discovery, it is unclear from the *Marvin Lumber* opinion whether the challenged subpoenas were issued before or after the discovery deadline. *See id.* at 444-45. Therefore, *Marvin Lumber* seems to be of limited value for determining the timeliness of Tyson's subpoenas because Tyson's subpoenas were issued within the deadline for

tecum after the discovery "cut-off" date of October 31, 1995. See id. at 557. After referencing his own research into the matter, and citing to several cases, the Magistrate Judge held that:

...by setting a discovery deadline the Court intended to limit the time during which the parties could <u>serve</u> discovery requests or <u>invoke</u> the Court's subpoena power to obtain documents from third parties...Defendant was not free, however, to <u>issue</u> subpoenas duces tecum <u>after</u> the discovery deadline.

Id. at 558 (emphasis added). Consistent with the analysis in *Rice*, Tyson <u>issued</u> the subpoenas – and thus, invoked this Court's authority – within the discovery deadline set by the Court. *See id.*

Tyson does not disagree with the State's position that subpoenas are considered discovery and thus, must be subject to the applicable discovery deadlines set by the Court. This is clearly the holding of *Rice*. *See id*. at 558. Instead, the current dispute between the parties distills down to this: whether the Court intended the April 16, 2009 discovery "cut-off" to place a time limit upon the parties' ability to seek discovery, or whether the Court intended the discovery "cut-off" to be the date by which all discovery must be completed. The State's *March 17 Discovery* seeks information regarding the land application of poultry litter in the Illinois River Watershed. *See* Exhibits A-F. This practice is central to virtually every issue in dispute between the parties so there is no reason why the State could not have sought this information earlier in the discovery process.

Tyson respectfully submits that by serving the State's *March 17 Discovery* on defendants, the State must have understood the Court's discovery "cut-off" to mean the date by which all discovery requests must be made – not the date by which discovery must be completed. Otherwise, the State must be presumed to have issued its *March 17 Discovery* in contravention of this Court's Scheduling Order because Rules 5(b)(2)(C), 5(b)(2)(E), 6(d), 33(b)(2), and

34(b)(2)(A) clearly combine to set defendants' time to respond to the State's discovery requests on April 20 – *i.e.*, after the discovery cut-off set by this Court. The State simply cannot have it both ways; the State must concede that its *March 17 Discovery* was improper or the State must withdraw its *Motion* challenging Tyson's subpoenas.

Tyson is aware that in some circumstances, courts set discovery deadlines with the intention of limiting the time within which the parties must complete discovery. See, e.g., Bolden v. City of Topeka, Kansas, 441 F.3d 1129, (10th Cir. 2006) (reviewing district court action pursuant to a scheduling order providing that "all discovery shall be commenced or served in time to be completed by October 31, 2003) (emphasis in original); Law v. Board of Trustees of Dodge City Comm. College, 2009 WL 973561, at * (April 10, 2009 D. Kan.) (considering motion to quash a subpoena in light of scheduling order stating that "[a]ll discovery shall be commenced or served in time to be completed by March 2, 2009.") (emphasis added); and Karagiannopoulous v. City of Lowell, 2008 WL 948261, at * 1 (April 2, 2008 W.D. N.C.) (addressing motion to quash in light of the court's Pretrial Order and Case Management Plan setting a deadline for "Discovery Completion" and directing counsel to initiate discovery requests "sufficiently in advance of the discovery completion deadline" to comply with the court's order) (emphasis added). Similarly, some districts have promulgated Local Rules which clearly instruct counsel that all discovery shall be completed by the discovery deadline or cut-off date. See, e.g., Butcher v. Allstate Ins. Co., 2008 WL 4965288, at *1 (Nov. 18, 2008 S.D. Miss.) (applying Local Rule that defined the "discovery deadline or cut-off date" as the "date by which all responses to written discovery shall be due....").

Tyson's review of the Scheduling Order in this matter (and subsequent modifications thereof) and the Local Rules for the Northern District of Oklahoma has not identified any similar instruction that the parties were to have issued their written discovery sufficiently in advance of the Court's discovery cut-off so that discovery responses would have been complete by that date. Should the State maintain its position that all discovery must have been completed by April 16, then the State must necessarily concede that service of its *March 17 Discovery* was unreasonable and the State must agree not to use any of the information it obtained by means of that discovery.

C. THE STATE WILL NOT BE HARMED OR PREJUDICED BY ALLOWING THE SUBPOENAS TO BE ENFORCED.

The State alleges that Tyson's subpoenas create an "unnecessary distraction and unfairly prejudices the State" because the "State needs to turn its attention to pretrial preparations." *Motion* at 3. However, the State does not allege that the documents sought by the subpoenas are privileged, protected, or otherwise confidential, so the State will not be required to review the documents prior to production to preserve any of those interests. Because the State will not be required to do anything in response to the subpoenas, there is no merit to the State's assertion that it will somehow be "distracted" by their enforcement. The State has failed to satisfy its burden of making a particular and specific demonstration of any potential harm, so the State's *Motion* should be denied. *See AG Equip. Co.*, 2008 WL 3992789, at *1 ("Within the context of Rule 26(c), 'good cause' contemplates a 'particular and specific demonstration of fact as distinguished from stereotyped and conclusory statements."").

III. CONCLUSION

The sole premise of the State's Motion - i.e., that discovery seeking a response after the Court's April 16 discovery cut-off is improper – is belied by the State's own actions. The State's

March 17 Discovery sought discovery responses from defendants after April 16 and importantly, the State has benefitted from defendants' discovery responses after April 16. There is no principled distinction between the State's March 17 Discovery and Tyson's subpoenas. Unless and until the State rescinds its March 17 Discovery to defendants – and agrees not to use any information obtained from defendants by means of that discovery – the State's *Motion* must fail. Therefore, for the reasons set forth herein, Tyson respectfully requests that the Court enter an order denying the State's Motion and granting Tyson such other and further relief as the Court deems just under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paula M. Buchwald

Stephen L. Jantzen, OBA # 16247 Patrick M. Ryan, OBA # 7864 Paula M. Buchwald, OBA # 20464 RYAN WHALEY COLDIRON SHANDY PC. 900 Robinson Renaissance 119 North Robinson, Suite 900 Oklahoma City, OK 73102 (405) 239-6040 (phone) (405) 239-6766 (fax)

-AND-

Thomas C. Green, appearing pro hac vice Mark D. Hopson, appearing pro hac vice Timothy K. Webster, appearing pro hac vice Jay T. Jorgensen, appearing pro hac vice Sidley Austin, LLP 1501 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-1401 (202) 736-8000 (phone) (202) 736-8711 (fax)

Robert W. George, OBA #18562 Vice President and Associate General Counsel L. Bryan Burns, *appearing pro hac vice* Tyson Foods, Inc. 2210 West Oaklawn Drive Springfield, AR 72764 (479) 290-4076 (phone) (479) 290-7967 (fax)

-AND-

Michael R. Bond, Esq. Erin Walker Thompson, Esq. KUTAK ROCK LLP 234 East Millsap Road, Suite 400 Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703-4099 (479) 973-4200 (phone) (479) 973-0007 (fax)

Attorneys for Tyson Foods, Inc., Tyson Poultry, Inc., Tyson Chicken, Inc. and Cobb-Vantress, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 27th day of April, 2009, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk of the Court using the ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following ECF registrants:

W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General Kelly H. Burch, Assistant Attorney General J. Trevor Hammons, Assistant Attorney General Daniel P. Lennington, Assistant Attorney General

M. David Riggs Joseph P. Lennart Richard T. Garren Sharon K. Weaver Robert A. Nance fc.docket@oag.state.ok.us Kelly.burch@oag.state.ok.us trevor.hammons@oag.state.ok.us daniel.lennington@oag.ok.us

driggs@riggsabney.com jlennart@riggsabney.com rgarren@riggsabney.com sweaver@riggsabney.com rnance@riggsabney.com

Page 10 of 16

D. Sharon Gentry sgentry@riggsabnev.com

RIGGS, ABNEY, NEAL, TURPEN, ORBISON & LEWIS

Louis Werner Bullock lbullock@bullock-blakemore.com bblakemore@bullock-blakemore.com Robert M. Blakemore

BULLOCK BULLOCK & BLAKEMORE

dpage@riggsabney.com David P. Page

BELL LEGAL GROUP

Frederick C. Baker fbaker@motleyrice.com lheath@motleyrice.com Lee M. Heath Elizabeth C. Ward lward@motlevrice.com Elizabeth Claire Xidis cxidis@motleyrice.com bnarwold@motlevrice.com William H. Harwold Ingrid L. Moll imoll@motleyrice.com jorent@motlevrice.com Jonathan D. Orent mrousseau@motleyrice.com Michael G. Rousseau ffitzpatrick@motleyrice.com Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick

MOTLEY RICE, LLC

COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF, THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Robert R. Redemann rredemann@pmrlaw.net

PERRINE, McGIVERN, REDEMANN, REID, BARRY & TAYLOR, P.L.L.C.

David C. Senger david@cgmlawok.com

Robert E. Sanders rsanders@voungwilliams.com Edwin Stephens Williams steve.williams@youngwilliams.com

YOUNG WILLIAMS P.A.

COUNSEL FOR CAL-MAINE FARMS, INC. & CAL-MAINE FOODS

John H. Tucker jtuckercourts@rhodesokla.com thillcourts@rhodesokla.com Theresa Noble Hill Colin Hampton Tucker ctucker@rhodesokla.com klewis@rhodesokla.com Kerry R. Lewis

RHODES, HIERONYMUS, JONES, TUCKER & GABLE

Terry Wayen West terry@thewestlawfirm.com

THE WEST LAW FIRM

Delmar R. Ehrich dehrich@faegre.com bjones@faegre.com **Bruce Jones**

Dara D. Mann dmann@mckennalong.com

Krisann C. Kleibacker Lee

Todd P. Walker

Melissa C. Collins

Christopher Harold Dolan

Randall E. Kalnke

kklee@faegre.com

twalker@faegre.com

mcollins@faegre.com

cdolan@faegre.com

rkalnke@faegre.com

FAEGRE & BENSON, LLP

COUNSEL FOR CARGILL, INC. & CARGILL TURKEY PRODUCTION, LLC

James Martin Graves
Gary V. Weeks

Woody Bassett

K.C. Dupps Tucker

Earl "Buddy" Chadick

Jeraves@bassettlawfirm.com

kctucker@bassettlawfirm.com

kctucker@bassettlawfirm.com

bchadick@bassettlawfirm.com

BASSETT LAW FIRM

George W. Owens
Randall E. Rose

OWENS LAW FIRM

gwo@ owenslawfirmpc.com
rer owenslawfirmpc.com

COUNSEL FOR GEORGE'S INC. & GEORGE'S FARMS, INC.

A. Scott McDaniel

Nicole Longwell

Phillip Hixon

Craig A. Mirkes

smcdaniel@mhla-law.com
nlogwell@mhla-law.com
phixon@mhla-law.com
cmirkes@mhla-law.com

McDANIEL, HIXON, LONGWELL & ACORD, PLLC

Sherry P. Bartley <u>sbartley@mwsgw.com</u>

MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG, GATES & WOODYARD, PLLC

COUNSEL FOR PETERSON FARMS, INC.

John Elrod jelrod@cwlaw.com
Vicki Bronson
P. Joshua Wisley jwisley@cwlaw.com
Bruce W. Freeman
D. Richard Funk

jelrod@cwlaw.com
ybronson@cwlaw.com
jwisley@cwlaw.com
pfreeman@cwlaw.com
rfunk@cwlaw.com

CONNOR & WINTERS, LLP

COUNSEL FOR SIMMONS FOODS, INC.

Stephen L. Jantzen

Paula M. Buchwald

Patrick M. Ryan

RYAN WHALEY COLDIRON & SHANDY

sjantzen@ryanwhaley.com

pbuchwald@ryanwhaley.com

pryan@ryanwhaley.com

Mark D. Hopsonmhopson@sidley.comJay Thomas Jorgensenjjorgensen@sidley.comTimothy K. Webstertwebster@sidley.comThomas C. Greentcgreen@sidley.comGordon D. Toddgtodd@sidley.com

SIDLEY, AUSTIN, BROWN & WOOD LLP

Michael R. Bond
Erin W. Thompson
Dustin R. Darst

KUTAK ROCK, LLP

Robert George
L. Bryan Burns

TYSON FOODS, INC.

robert.george@tyson.com
bryan.burns@tyson.com

COUNSEL FOR TYSON FOODS, INC., TYSON POULTRY, INC., TYSON CHICKEN, INC., & COBB-VANTRESS, INC.

R. Thomas Lay rt@kiralaw.com

KERR, IRVIND, RHODES & ABLES

Jennifer Stockton Griffin

David Gregory Brown

Frank M. Evans, III

LATHROP & GAGE, L.C.

jgriffin@lathropgage.com
dbrown@lathropage.com
fevans@lathropgage.com

COUNSEL FOR WILLOW BROOK FOODS, INC.

Robin S. Conrad rconrad@uschamber.com

NATIONAL CHAMBER LITIGATION CENTER

Gary S. Chilton gchilton@holladaychilton.com

HOLLADAY, CHILTON AND DEGIUSTI, PLLC

COUNSEL FOR US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION

D. Kenyon Williams, Jr. kwilliams@hallestill.com
Michael D. Graves mgraves@hallestill.com

HALL, ESTILL, HARDWICK, GABLE, GOLDEN & NELSON

COUNSEL FOR POULTRY GROWERS/INTERESTED PARTIES/POULTRY PARTNERS, INC.

Richard Ford

LeAnne Burnett

richard.ford@crowedunlevy.com
leanne.burnett@crowedunlevy.com

CROWE & DUNLEVY

COUNSEL FOR OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, INC.

Kendra Akin Jones, Assistant Attorney General
Charles L. Moulton, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
COUNSEL FOR STATE OF ARKANSAS AND ARKANSAS NATIONAL

Mia Vahlberg @gablelaw.com

GABLE GOTWALS

James T. Banksjtbanks@hhlaw.comAdam J. Siegelajsiegel@hhlaw.com

HOGAN & HARTON, LLP

RESOURCES COMMISSION

COUNSEL FOR NATIONAL CHICKEN COUNCIL; U.S. POULTRY AND EGG ASSOCIATION & NATIONAL TURKEY FEDERAL

John D. Russell jrussell@fellerssnider.com

FELLERS, SNIDER, BLANKENSHIP, BAILEY & TIPPENS, PC

William A. Waddell, Jr.

David E. Choate

waddell@fec.net
dchoate@fec.net

COUNSEL FOR ARKANSAS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Barry Greg Reynolds

Jessica E. Rainey

TITUS, HILLIS, REYNOLDS, LOVE, DICKMAN & MCCALMON

Nikka Baugh Jordon
William S. Cox III

wcox@lightfootlaw.com
wcox@lightfootlaw.com

COUNSEL FOR AMERICAN FARM BUREAU AND NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

and I further certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing will be mailed via regular mail through the United States Postal Service, postage properly paid, on the following who are not registered participants of the ECF System:

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

C. Miles Tolbert SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT State of Oklahoma 3800 North Classen Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Cherri House P.O. Box 1097 Stilwell, OK 74960

David Gregory Brown Lathrop & Gage LC 314 E. High Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

Donna S. Parker 34996 S 502 Road Park Hill, OK 74451

Doris Mares 14943 SE 15th Street Choctaw, OK 73020-7007

G. Craig Heffinton 20144 W. Sixshooter Road Cookson, OK 74427

John & Virginia W. Adair Family Trust Rt. 2 Box 1160 Stilwell, OK 74960

Cary Silverman Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP 600 14th Street NW Ste 800 Washington D.C. 20005-2004 Dustin McDaniel
Office of the Attorney General
323 Center Street
Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201-2610

George R. Stubblefield HC-66, Box 19-12 Proctor, OK 74457

Gordon W. Clinton 23605 S. Goodnight Lane Welling, OK 74471

Jerry M. Maddux Selby Connor Maddux Janer P.O. Box Z Bartlesville, OK 74005-5025

Thomas C. Green Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP 1501 K Street NW Washington, D.C. 20005

Victor E. Schwartz Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP 600 14th Street NW Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 2005-2004

William House P.O. Box 1097 Stilwell, OK 74960

Jim Baby RR 2, Box 1711 Westville, OK 74965

Jonathan D. Orent Motley Rice LLC 321 S. Main Street Providence, RI 02940 Justin Allen
Office of the Attorney General
323 Center Street
Suite 200
Little Rock, Ark 72001-2610

Marjorie Garman 19031 US Hwy 412 Colcord, Ok 74338-3861

Melissa C. Collins Faegre & Benson 1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3200 Denver, CO 80203

Richard E. Parker 34996 S. 502 Rd Park Hill, OK 74451

Robin L. Wofford Rt. 2, Box 370 Watts, OK 749764

Steven B. Randall 58185 Country Road 658 Kansas, OK 74347

Susann Clinton 23605 Goodnight Lane Welling, OK 7447

J.D. Strong Secretary of the Environment State of Oklahoma 3800 North Classen Oklahoma City, OK 73118

/s/ Paula M. Buchwald

Paula M. Buchwald